



Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership Meeting
Monday 29th November 2021
3.00pm – 5.00pm
Virtually, via MS Teams

Attendees		
Name	Agency	Designation
Hannah Miller	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Independent Advisor
Moira Murray	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Interim Service Manager
Amanda Lowes	London Borough of Hounslow	Assistant Director: Homelessness, Independence and Preventative Services
Elizna Visser	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Safeguarding & Quality Assurance
Annita Cornish	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Special Educational Needs and Disability
Vicki Taylor	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director Education & Skills
Sarah Green	Chelsea & Westminster Hospital	Consultant Midwife for Public Health and Safeguarding
Tony Bowen	HRCH	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Dr Nirmala Sellathurai	CCG	Designated Doctor Safeguarding Children
Lorna Waite	CCG	Designated Nurse Safeguarding Children
Parminder Sahota	West London NHS Trust	Director of Safeguarding Children and Adults
Sharon Brookes	Police	Detective Superintendent
Clare McKenzie	London Borough of Hounslow	Children's Commissioning Manager, Public Health
Graeme Baker	West Thames College	Head of Quality & Standards
Ian Berryman	Woodbridge Park Education Service	Headteacher (Nominated Special Schools Rep)
Heidi Swidenbank	Bolder Academy	Headteacher (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Clea Barry	CAFCASS	Service Manager
Anil Chatterjee	ARC & HYPE	Service Manager
Guests Attendees		
Priscilla Kurewa	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Head of Front Door
Janet Dique	London Borough of Hounslow	EHE Lead

Apologies		
Steven Forbes	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Executive Director of Children's & Adults' Services
Martin Forshaw	London Borough of Hounslow	Interim Assistant Director – Children's Safeguarding & Specialist Services
Councillor Tom Bruce	Education and Children's Services	Councillor
Janet Johnson	Hounslow Safeguarding Children's Partnership	Learning & Development Manager
Emily Martin	Feltham YOI	Governor
Kerry Jacks	Feltham YOI	Head of Safeguards
Kumal Rajpaul	HRCH	Interim Director of Nursing & Non Medical Professionals
Pauline Fletcher	North West London CCG	Associate Director for Safeguarding Children
Adam Kerr	National Probation Service	Head of Service Delivery – Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond
Michael Michaelides	West Thames College	Executive Director Resources & Student Experience
Thomas Webster	West London NHS Trust	Named Nurse Safeguarding Children
Phil Hopkins	London Borough of Hounslow	Head of Adolescent Services
Permjit Chadha	Community Safety	Head of Service
Kamm Grewal	Springwell School	Headteacher (Nominated Primary School Rep)
Niamh Murrell	National Probation Service	Senior Probation Officer
Josephine Daly	Oak Heights School	Independent School Rep
Victoria Eadie	Tudor Park Education	CEO (Nominated Secondary School Rep)
Not Attended		
Karen McLean	Homestart	Voluntary Sector Representative

1) Introductions & Apologies

Partnership members introduced themselves to the meeting. Apologies of members unable to attend were noted.

2) Minutes of the last meeting & matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and no matters arising were discussed. The action log was updated.

Action Log

Elizna Visser took members through the action log.

Action 6 - Children Social Care Improvement Plan

To complete a dip sample of professionals receiving feedback following a referral to the Front Door Service and update the partnership.

Elizna Visser updated that CSC did not have the capacity to undertake a full dip sample. There had been some changes to the Front Door Service at the beginning of November 2021 and the backlog has been allocated to two members of staff to clear by the 15th December. Going forward MASH workers will provide immediate responses back to the referrer. Members were asked to liaise with CSC directly if there were any further delays. The Front Door audit is going on exploring the quality of CFANs and outcomes and would also inform that response to referrals. This would be presented to the Board.

Action 6 – Child Protection Chairs Annual Report 2020/21

To explore the process in place to notify schools when children/young people are on CP Plans or CIN Plans and explore the feasibility of providing them with a list.

To explore if there is a system issue which meant some schools were being notified of safeguarding meetings after the meetings had taken place.

To explore the system in place to provide agencies particularly schools with minutes in a timely way following safeguarding meetings.

Elizna Visser updated that CSC did not have the capacity to provide schools with the list of children on Child Protection and Child in Need plans however schools would continue to be invited to safeguarding meetings such as Child Protection Case Conferences and core groups meetings. Members were asked to notify CSC directly if there were further issues.

Vicki Taylor explained that a number of issues had been raised by schools regarding the outcomes following referrals and asked whether the information could go back to the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL). Elizna Visser said that the DSLs were specifically included in the conference process and hopefully would resolve some of the issues.

Ian Berryman said that there were significant concerns regarding the response and follow up from CSC following a referral and the issue had been raised with at the last secondary headteacher meeting. Schools do not receive regular updates and information from CSC although schools consistently shared information with them.

Elizna Visser said that there were different issues raised which was dealt with by different teams. Therefore, it was important that CSC was informed of specific issues when it happens so it could be explored with the right team as it was difficult to explore in general.

The Chair suggested that this was taken forward by the Safeguarding Effectiveness Sub-Group meeting and a meeting should be held with Education to address as this had been raised previously.

Action: For Elizna Visser to liaise with Vicki Taylor regarding the issues raised by the schools.

3) Education Annual Reports

Elective Home Education 2020-21

Janet Dique summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

The Elective Home Education (EHE) Team had established positive links with a number of teams including School Admissions, Inclusion, SEND, Connexions and Children Missing Education (CME). The team now had named contacts in Social Care and Early Help, to ensure effective support of EHE

families, where they were challenges around housing, finance, and mental health, which would impact children/young people accessing a suitable education.

Challenges

- Lack of staff resource to ensure quality/quantity provision for number of CYP
- Lack of resource to make 'inroads' with families who are not willing to engage with EHE team
- Independent education settings not always informing admissions and EHE when children are 'off-rolled'

Plans for 2021/22

- Continue to build effective relationships with even more EHE families
- Train more staff to use Synergy, increasing efficiency and ensuring better use of time efficiently once system in place, enabling better use of time
- Foster links with Hounslow home educating parent groups
- Further improve partnership working with Connexions, to ensure continuing education/training for Year 11 onward
- Update and improve resources for parents and guardians
- Improve access to examinations

Members accepted the report.

Traveller Education Team Report

Janet Dique summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

Following the retirement of a long serving Traveller Education teacher in 2018, there were concerns that this would impact on the Local Authority and Traveller community links. The team had developed good relationships with the Traveller community and other teams to support the families including CME. The team continued to undertake annual visits to EHE Traveller families annually however some families were seen more frequently.

There were 133 Traveller pupils' cross phase in Hounslow schools (July 2021):

- 99 primary pupils (23 schools) 4 with EHCP plan
- 34 secondary pupils (11 schools) 1 with EHCP plan

The Chair said that vulnerable children in education was a priority area for the partnership. There had been some key issues highlighted particularly around EHE in a recent Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) and the National Panel had taken a clear interest in this area.

Moira Murray said that on review of the figures in the report, it was clear that more children had not returned to school following lockdown. There were questions raised about the capacity within the team to undertake the work that was needed and monitor those children who were being home educated and whether there was sufficient assurance to the partnership from a safeguarding perspective. There had been recommendations from the House of Commons Select Committee and Directors of Children's Services and Education regarding a register for children who were being home educated and there was likely to be more demands made on the service as a result.

Janet Dique said despite it being a small team, the focus was to maintain the systems that were already in place to ensure that children did not fall through the net. It was a challenge that there

were no guidelines on what an acceptable education was therefore it was difficult to set the bar at a high level.

Moira Murray said that during the LCSPR, there was the question raised around the capability of parents to provide appropriate home education to their child/ren and asked whether information was gathered during assessments. In this case mother had her own learning difficulties, therefore was unable to provide an appropriate education for the child.

Vicki Taylor informed that she had managed to secure additional capacity for the team and was seeking to approach the Children Improvement Board to discuss capacity for an extended period of time as there was an uncertainty of whether children would remain at home or return back to education.

The Chair informed that the partnership would support Vicki Taylor in seeking additional funding for the team.

Ian Berryman referred to the number of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children who have had fixed term exclusions and asked if this was as a result of parents being supported by schools and the Local Authority to sign children out of school to prevent a permanent exclusion. Janet Dique said that this had not been raised.

Ian Berryman said that although there were no guidelines around what an acceptable education was, it was important that the team set a benchmark of the quality that they aspire as a local area and would support in creating a brief guide. Janet Dique welcomed the support.

Members accepted the report.

4) WL NHS Trust Safeguarding Annual Report

Parminder Sahota summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

Staff within the safeguarding team were redeployed to support Front Line services including the Named Nurse for safeguarding children. This had a significant impact on how the Trust performed their safeguarding duties. The Trust continued to do some good work both internally and externally with partners. In January 2020, the Safeguarding Training Strategy was launched to align this with the Intercollegiate documents for Children and Adults training competencies. This meant that a number of staff required high level training. Due to the pandemic, training had moved to a virtual platform and there had been a decrease in the training compliance of 84%. This was being closely monitored both internally and by the CCG and there was a plan in place to achieve compliance. Although the Trust was not a 90%, since the report, there had been an increase in training compliance.

The safeguarding strategy was reviewed in October 2019 which set out goals and how this would be achieved over three years. Below were the priorities which were aligned in the report.

- Standardisation of Safeguarding processes across the Trust
- Develop a data set to support and identify areas of need
- Staff to feel confident in decision making
- Audit the quality of Safeguarding referrals to support Safeguarding practice
- Making Safeguarding Personal – Listening to the child, young person, adult service users and their families/carers

- Working in partnership with multi agencies to provide an effective Safeguarding response

The Trust had access to Child Protection – Information Sharing Project (CP-IS) which had been useful. Sarah Green commented that there were a few challenges within maternity regarding CP-IS and the issues been raised nationally with NHS Digital. An audit would be undertaken on missing alerts on CP-IS.

In April 2020, the new safeguarding dashboard was launched which would enable services to track their own referrals.

The Trust was successful in a joint bid with Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) for a Domestic Abuse Coordinator and this was funded for one year. The coordinator started in August 2020 and the Trust had agreed to fund the post pending a business case being submitted to request for a permanent position. West London NHS Trust was the first Trust nationally to develop a policy on staff on domestic abuse.

Members accepted the report.

5) Neglect Audit Outcome

Moira Murray summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and questions.

This was the third audit undertaken by Hounslow Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP) in relation to neglect. Twelve cases were randomly selected for audit, of which eight were Child Protection (CP) cases and four were Child in Need (CIN).

Although there had been some improvements made in the last two years, since the previous audit in 2019, there were still some areas of practice that needed further development. The majority of cases were graded Requires Improvement which meant that the overall practice in relation to neglect cases in Hounslow was not yet good which reflected the findings from the audit undertaken in 2019.

In 2020, the Quality of Care (QoC) Assessment Tool was updated, refined, and re-launched and the multi-agency neglect strategy was revised. It was evident that there were improvements in the number of QoC Assessment tool that had been completed, however there were a number of them that did not include multi-agency collaboration. In regard to the CP Cases, the CP Chairs had not been routinely adding the QoC Assessment tool to the plan made at the Initial CP Conference (ICPC). The tool was not routinely updated by practitioners. It was important that practitioners understood that the strength of the tool was its ability to monitor outcomes and assess risks over time to ensure intervention remained at the right level. It was positive that agencies such as health visitors and schools had used the tool.

Domestic Violence featured strongly in the cases and there was a lack of specialist input in this area which had resulted in a poor understanding of the issues for the children and the victim of the abuse.

In some cases, there were efforts to engage fathers, but these were not always successful, and this represented a gap in assessing the influence of significant males in family life. The care of children was more likely to be effective where there was positive support from fathers and other extended family. Where fathers and other family members pose a risk to the child, it is important that they are engaged with the assessment so that risks are identified and included in the plans.

In many cases where adults' needs were recognised and the use of a trauma informed approach was evident in practice, it was disappointing that adult services were not more engaged with the multi-agency work. A 'think family' approach would be helpful.

There was evidence of some good multi-agency collaboration between agencies in terms of plans and their implementation. However this was very strong in smaller networks and the panel found that the more complex the network became, the more difficult it was to co-ordinate. There was no evidence of escalation and challenge in the cases and agencies were dealing with their frustrations rather than going through the correct process for example in one case Police had refused to share vital information and this had not been raised with the Partnership. Panel members and practitioners acknowledged that the escalation process needed to be used more robustly.

Elizna Visser said that although there had been strengths identified in the audit, there was still a lot of learning that had been identified in the recent LSCPR regarding the complexity of neglect and the system's ability to see an holistic view rather than dealing with issues in isolation. Children Social Care (CSC) had made the Quality of Care (QoC) Assessment Tool mandatory on all assessment. It was anticipated that the multi-agency chronolater would be rolled out early next year and would support neglect cases.

The audit identified three cases that were inadequate. Following the panels, the respective Heads of Service were asked to review those cases and actions had been taken immediately, for example for one of the cases, visits were being undertaken more regularly.

At the time of the audit, Police highlighted that it would be helpful to conduct a more extensive search on the cases to provide a fuller picture of their involvement rather than exploring the previous 6 months of practice.

Sarah Green felt strongly about the 'Think Family' approach with all assessments to address the immediate risks to children. It was a challenge within maternity to undertake assessments of fathers in the same way as the mother. A new system was being developed and would include questions for fathers. The national review of Non Accidental Injuries (NAI) had been published and had featured the lack of information about fathers. Further work was needed to legally explore information sharing perspective and trauma informed care.

The Chair confirmed that children and families were not spoken to as part of the audit process and the child's lived experience was captured by reviewing the child's records. It was recognised that during the panels, practitioners seemed to know more about the families than what was recorded.

Ian Berryman asked members if they were confident that there were robust systems and structures in place around management oversight. Elizna Visser said that CSC had a robust system of tracking management oversight and supervision based on data. Quality assurance work was being considered and there had been significant improvement in this area. This had been reflected in the data and the audit.

The Chair stated that she was extremely disappointed in the outcome of the neglect audit. The partnership had undertaken a lot of work around neglect including the re-launch of the QoC Assessment tool and the revision of the strategy in January 2020. The audit highlighted that there was still a number of issues that agencies had to address. Previously it had been agreed to mandate the QoC Assessment tool to ensure it was used consistently and collaboratively but this late up happening. There was a high number of Child Protection cases where the category was neglect and there had been two LCSPRs around chronic neglect.

There was a challenge for CP Chairs and CIN Chairs to ensure the QoC Assessment Tool was used effectively. This was not good enough and there was a need for improvement as neglect had a huge impact on children such as their education and health. Therefore there was a need for senior leaders to encourage the use of the tool.

Following the Sir Alan Wood Review, the Chair was required to provide an assurance statement in the partnerships annual report and there was limited assurance on neglect as it was still an area for improvement.

It was important that the next neglect audit showed huge improvements, with best practice.

Sarah Green said that she and the Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children had delivered training to staff on the QoC Assessment Tool and practitioners have found completing the tool very useful. It was suggested that the brief tool was included in the CFAN to ensure consistency.

The Chair said that other agency should ensure that the tool was included in their documents and was reflected across multi-agency.

Ian Berryman suggested that this could be added on the Hounslow Education Partnership (HEP) agenda to ensure that Primary and Secondary School headteachers were aware of the tool and confirm that it was being used in their school. The Chair suggested that Moira Murray and Elizna Visser had a discussion to ensure schools were aware of the Quality of Care Assessment Tool and the expectation. A brief paper on the outcome of the audit should be sent to schools to remind them of the tool and the expectation.

Action: For Moira Murray and Elizna Visser to have a discussion to ensure schools were aware of the Quality of Care Assessment tool and the expectation.

Action: For Moira Murray to draft a short paper on the outcome of the audit to Hounslow Education Partnership (HEP).

6) Local Area Self-Evaluation of SEND

Annita Cornish summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

The Children and Families Act 2014, introduced the SEND reforms and extended the age up to 25 years who have special educational needs or disability or both. The government placed new duties on the local health, social care and education for young people and children with special educational needs.

The service was expecting an inspection imminently from Ofsted and the CQC and would be informed 5 days in advance of the inspection. The service would be inspection under the old framework as the new framework was expected until April 2022.

Throughout the course of the inspection, inspectors would:

- Look at young people's case files and would meet with leaders and managers from the area education, health and social care services.
- Review the support provided to children and young people to understand how the local area meet its responsibilities

- Visit early years settings, schools, colleges, and specialist services
- The inspectors would speak to young people and their parents or carers.

One of the key issues for Hounslow was the prevalence of SEND which was higher compared to other London boroughs and nationally. The number of children and young people who had an EHCP was above average compared to London and England. Hounslow had the highest allocation of high needs funding and also spends more per capita.

Annita Cornish asked that members had a shared narrative regarding SEND knowing the areas of strength and areas of development.

Annita Cornish said that it was challenging with significant cuts into local government. Some of the issues was the demand for the EHC needs assessments, and the team that supports that was really small. They have got assurances going forward to put something into that team. There had been a significant change to the CCG with the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) and SEND would be reporting to the ICP.

Members wished the service the best of luck for the inspection.

7) Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer Report

Clare McKenzie summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

Following a presentation from Sarah Green on Screening for Adverse Childhood Experiences, members were informed that work was underway on the Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer with antenatal through to postnatal groups including Midwifery, Children Centres, including parent focus groups and co-production work to increase parental contact with routine services. The Chair requested that a paper should be presented on the Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer outlining the current offer, the challenges and the work being undertaken to improve the offer to families in Hounslow. There were issues that were identified through the development of the Early Help Hub where children were presenting late to the Front Door once they reached school age and were being seen more regularly.

There had been a number of initiatives undertaken to improve some of the services however the challenge was that it did not work as an integrated system. Below were some of the improvement work that had been undertaken:

- Maternity Service: transformation programme, social prescribing; targeted sessions for socially complex families, development of perinatal mental health service.
- Health Visiting: development of an award-winning skill mix model, MECSH (Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting) enhanced health visiting model, weekend clinics, and FNP (Family Nurse Partnership) walk and talk sessions that occurred during lockdown.
- Children Centre: development of new programmes for parents, healthy eating sessions, financial support programmes for parents
- Early Years: integrated joint reviews with Health Visiting pilot, projects to increase uptake of 2-year education access funding, council financial support to settings during the pandemic; home activity kits for targeted children with SEND and transition to school bags for vulnerable children.
- Reach Children's Hub; perinatal support, early years workforce development; training opportunities for local families.

In March 2021 Hounslow Council's Corporate Leadership Team agreed to undertake a One Hounslow 0-5 Review, and there had been a commitment from a number of partners to be part of this work to achieve better services and better outcomes for families.

- There would be on 0-19 public health review and recommission of Health Visiting, FNP and School Nursing service.
- There would be a review on children centres and would link to the work on family hubs.
- Pre-birth review led by social care working with maternity and health visiting

There were challenges around the impact that Covid-19 has had in the last 20 months as many services were required to change the way in which they worked for example Health Visiting had reduced the mandated 5 contacts to 3 contacts, with one face to face appointment for universal provision. There was a concern regarding the next generation coming in to start in school about the those additional needs that we have probably missed during this process.

The initial work undertaken by the Review Group would focus on needs assessment, mapping of current provision and the potential solutions and the findings would be presented to the Children Delivery Group on 13th of January 2022.

The Chair thanked Clare McKenzie for her report and requested that a paper should be brought back to the meeting in six months' time.

Action: For Clare McKenzie to bring an updated report on the Universal 0-5 Pathway and Offer in six months time.

8) Early Help Hub Progress Report

Priscilla Kurewa summarised the report which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and welcomed comments and feedback.

The Early Help Hub was created in September 2019 to help divert some of the high numbers of contacts being directed to the Children's Front Door Service that were clearly at an early help level. It was initially funded for two years but had now been extended for a further 12 months whilst the Council developed the Community Solutions model. The purpose of the Early Help Hub was to work in partnership with agencies to provide early help advice around support for vulnerable families to prevent cases escalating to Children Social Care (CSC). The hub consisted of three practitioners, one for each locality and there were monthly Community Action Partnership Panels (CAPP) based on these locality areas which a number of agencies would attend including schools and DVIP.

In 2020/21, the Early Help Hub received 534 referrals however 308 of these referrals were redirected by the Front Door which meant that agencies were still referring to the Front Door instead of the Early Help Hub which had been an ongoing issue. The Front Door Service received around 20,000 contacts every year which had to be processed. There was work being undertaken with Community Solutions which was a Council led initiative. The idea was to undertake work within the community at an early stage to prevent an Early Help referral.

There was ongoing work being undertaken by CSC to re-design the Front Door and MASH to a digital operation and this would go live by the 1st April 2022.

Ian Berryman said moving to a digitalised platform was positive and asked whether the remainder of the contacts that were not redirected from the Front Door to the Early Help Hub were appropriate contacts. It would be useful if the portal would enable people to see the reasons and the nature of

the referral this would give an understanding of the reason for the perception around its not being used appropriately therefore it would give information on the issues.

Priscilla Kurewa said that the online portal would also resolve the issue around the response to referrals as this would allow agencies to track their referrals.

Parminder Sahota raised concerns regarding the portal as they had a similar process with Adults. Once a referral was made, the referrer would receive a receipt number with no other information regarding the status of the referral. Another issue raised was that once a referral was sent via the portal, the referrer would not receive a copy of the referral. It was important that the agency making the referral had access to the referral, the number of referrals made by the service, the ability to extract themes from the referrals and timely feedback on the referrals. Priscilla Kurewa informed that a steering group had been created which was represented by adults and the design team was working closely with Adult Services to consider learning from their portal.

Lorna Waite asked whether health was represented on the steering group. Priscilla Kurewa explained that the steering group was an internal meeting however health had the opportunity to have discussions at the Health and Social Care Interface meeting.

It was agreed that a progress paper would be presented to the Board in spring. The Chair thanked Priscilla Kurewa for her report.

Action: For Cleo Frederick-Grant to add Early Help Hub Progress Report to the forward plan.

Action: For Martin Forshaw to bring a paper to May's Board on the Early Help Hub.

9) Integrated Care System Report

Siobhan Appleton gave a verbal update on the Integrated Care System.

The CCG was still waiting on guidance from NHS England in relation to accountability and assurance processes. A letter from the Chair of the London Safeguarding Partnership Executive was disseminated requesting assurance in relation to what safeguarding arrangements was going to look like once we transitioned into an Integrated Care System (ICS). The letter has been reviewed and a response to letter would be disseminated from the chief nurse of North West London CCG. There was an expectation that existing arrangements within provider organizations would remain as the ICS develops. In addition, from CCG perspective, arrangements may be reviewed, to strengthen partnership working and borough-based oversight would remain a priority.

It was agreed that the ICS would remain on the agenda for updates until it had been established.

10) Safeguarding Children within WL NHS Trust Presentation

The agenda item was not ready for presentation. The Trust was informed that this would remain on the agenda for the next meeting in January 2022.

AGENDA (Part B – CONFIDENTIAL)

11) Complex Cases Panel Membership

This item was discussed as a Part B confidential agenda item and has been recorded separately.

STANDING AGENDA ITEMS

12) AOB

Update on West Thames College Ofsted Inspection

Graeme Baker provided a verbal update of their recent Ofsted inspection.

At the end of September 2021, West Thames College was inspected by Ofsted and received an effective judgement. During the inspection, there was a lot more focus on the students and inspectors were more engaged with them which was positive.

During the process, inspectors sought assurance that the right systems, policies and procedures were in place such as HR procedures, safer recruitment and work around having a single central register. The Deputy Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) were spoken to. Following the reports produced by both Ofsted and Department of Education (DfE) over the summer and over the last year around harmful sexual behaviour and sexual abuse, there were discussions with students regarding how safe they felt within the college and where they did not feel safe and what they considered to be appropriate and inappropriate. The inspectors explored staff presence around the college and the students were asked if staff were visible in spaces around the college and this was positive. The students were clear, honest and supportive of the approach undertaken by the college. The pastoral programme for students was looked at in detail which was helpful for staff. Prevent was looked at but not in the same way they have done in the past, checking that they were clear on the referral process and there was a good understanding of how the channel process worked.

The college highlighted their good relationship with the Local Authority and the work undertaken with the Youth Offending Service (YOS) and schools regarding children transitioning to the college.

A few sample cases were selected and the journey of those cases were explored, for example what actions were taken, and which agencies were involved. The inspectors were pleased that the college had a good relationship with the partnership and that every year the partnership would review their policies and procedures which was helpful.

Members congratulated West Thames College on the good result they received from their Ofsted Inspection.